

**Medford District
Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)
Meeting Minutes**

**August 8, 2002
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office**

The objectives of the Committee are to improve collaboration relationships between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and local communities, and provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) or the Secretary's designee(s) consistent with the provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, P.L. 106-393.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Category 1

Gene Bowling
David Hill
Daniel Ratty

Category 2

Philip Lang
Vernon Pew
Jack Shipley
Richard Smith
David Strahan
Jeffrey Hanson - Alternate

Category 3

Walter Fence
Sue Kupillas
Susan Morgan
Steven West

Welcome - Sue Kupillas, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Sue Kupillas, Chair.

RAC members, BLM support staff and others in attendance introduced themselves. Sue Kupillas Complimented the RAC Committee on dealing with RAC issues. If there are any complaints or problems, let Sue know.

Review Meeting Guidelines - Karen Gillespie, Facilitator

RAC members voted to retain the meeting guidelines established on Feb 14, 2002.

Next RAC Meeting - Sue Kupillas

Discuss what the RAC's legacy should be.

Review Agenda - Karen Gillespie

Reminder that another RAC Meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2002 at the Hampton Inn. Sue Kupillas was concerned about not having time for others issues to be brought to the table. Main charge: Get through the projects today.

Agenda was reviewed and approved.

Review/Approve Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2002, RAC Meeting Minutes review/approval was delayed until after lunch to give members an opportunity to review them.

Jim Hallberg (OSO) - Passed out packets prepared by County Coordinator Committee on long-term county payments, including public participation. New website being used for public input. Eight alternatives were flushed out by the Committee. Full range of possibilities for long-term solutions. Doug Robertson, Douglas County Commissioner and Ed Shepard, BLM, are good, strong reps for RAC long-term solutions.

Action: Memo to State Director to Use Alternates

Memo was sent to State Director.

Action: 2002 Projects, Bob Korfhage

Bob handed out a table showing the status of 2002 approved Title II projects. 2002 Approve Project were reviewed; current implementation status given

Voting - Sue Kupillas

Overview of how the RAC will review projects: Short presentations are to be given by the filed manager; final voting the same as they did before using colored cards. Group C = green, group B = pink, and group A = cream. The name tags are color coded. Must have a quorum.

2003 RAC proposals (Klamath Falls RA), Wedge Watkins

Saddle Draw Road Decommissioning: Cinder surface must be removed from the road; not needed for transportation. Road will go back to a natural hill slope; ripped and reforested this fall.

Topsy Road/Rock Creek Upgrade (adjacent to Klamath River Canyon): Parallels Klamath River on the south side. Terminates in Calif. Road in poor condition; complex issue. People starting to take detours around the bad spots and ending up in meadows. Ruts are deep. Repair a portion of the road to allow people to stay on the actual road and rehabilitate the meadow. Add out reach signing. If road is repaired, will have higher public use.

Johnson Creek Riparian Thin: Overstocked by conifers. Don't want mechanized equipment inside riparian zone. Needs density management control. 2002 project. 7" dbh and smaller. Limited access to stands. Not a commercial outlet at this time.

Public comment: None.

Douglas and Curry County, Lynda Boody

Recreation projects: Cow Creek Back Country Byway supported last year in first phase. 2nd phase - build a kiosk and pull out. Working with Roseburg District. Use a train car as a visitor center. Train car is from O&C Railroad (Visitor Center and a loop-around Wayside). O&C funding will be used to develop attractions/facilities. BLM will partner with them. Who will operate and maintain the Visitor Center? Citizens in Glendale will maintain control. Low maintenance structures. BLM will maintain the byway.

Funding FY2003 request - \$36,000 for 2nd phase of byway; Visitor Center and Wayside = \$27,500; Tucker Flat upgrade (Curry County) = \$47,000.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement - open up stands and do thinning. Reduce fuel hazards. Need planning dollars to start NEPA.

Infrastructure investments + noxious weeds (invest in road work to install culverts and roadside brushing)

Maintenance/Improvement (\$505,000); roadside brushing \$59,000; noxious weed removal \$32,000.

Jackson County Projects, John Raby

Boaz Forest health small diameter utilization presentation (Jean Williams). Boaz was funded in FY02. Multi-year project. Continuation of FY02.

BLM road maintenance (2nd priority). Ditch and culvert cleaning funded in FY02 (\$34,350).

Upper Table Rock Parking Lot - multi-year; partially funded in 02. Widening parking lot. 2nd phase of parking lot will be interpretive kiosk for visitors. Project in OSO for contracting for FY02.

Canyon Creek Road Repair - rock 6/10 mile. Decommissioning 4/10 mile. End of road not needed. Upgrading and decommissioning on same road.

Jenny Creek Road Repair - noxious weed treatment by Medford. Ongoing. Multi-year project in the monument.

Soda Mountain/Cascade Siskiyou Monument - reduce/stop the spread of noxious weeds.

Noxious Weeds presentation by Bob Budes

Joint project with the County. Starting a new treatment of coconut extract with air out of a nozzle. Very thick and holds heat on the plant. Will kill the weeds; then spot treatments. Enough history/testing to use? Yes. Roseburg has the equipment. Coos Bay has the equipment. Demonstration on Medford recently. Equipment used as roadside apparatus up to 150 feet. Data not being collected at this time for overall effectiveness because Medford doesn't have the equipment. Bob will contact the company for the effectiveness. Apply annually. Weed control is 3-4 year process. Equipment spray worked around the Calif. poppy. Boiling water goes on weeds with coconut extraction. Multi-year. \$70,000 for leasing equipment.

Hyatt Lake Public Contact Station - construct at the entrance. Parking for visitors. Display boards. Increased compliance with fee requirements (\$100,000) for one year.

Section 1 Rock Quarry (single year) rock used for multi-year road maintenance.

Native seed collection and grow out: seed used for fire rehabilitation, road maintenance, wildlife habitat. \$80,000 this year.

Jackson Creek Fuel Reductions near Jacksonville. Reduce vegetation density to mitigate fire hazard and risk to Wildland Urban Interface areas. City of Jacksonville received three fire grants.

Ginger Creek Forest Health - cut/remove trees from laminated root disease pockets (Butte Falls); cut non-commercial dense stands; release genetically reserved trees. Thinning project (\$10,000)

Dump & Trash Cleanup - \$17,000 on BLM lands. RAC looked at dump site on last field trip.

\$220,000 for a self-loading dump truck and workforce: Use for a district-wide occupancy and illegal dump site clean up using a trailer-mounted equipment pulled behind a truck. The trailer divides and sorts the debris. The cost is for a self-loading dump truck and trailer, and a workforce. Will it be a salary-type expenditure? Salaries,

but tied to the project. Dumping is a huge problem on public land. The same problem exists on the Klamath side. Dumping will adversely affect the watersheds. There could be an opportunity for the public to contract the equipment. Josephine County wants to contract out. One-time expenditure; multi-year operation. Will rectify existing problems. What will stop the dumping problem?

Alternative: Fund a deputy half-time. Residents want a deputy near their home vs. equipment. Mitigate by educating the community with 'free disposal.' Stop the dumping before it starts!

Alternative: LE part would not work. Do pro-active clean up. Difficult to identify the root cause. Transfer stations have different charges. Appliances are at risk. Equipment is a financial risk.

Public comment:

R&R Construction has a full-time crew and an interagency commitment with the equipment.

Johns Peak Activity Plan/EIS (OHV) - \$20,000 proposed funding this year. Multi-year project for cadastral survey. Intermixed BLM/private land. Must get property lines established. Very little appropriated recreation funding. Critical to get started.

Public Projects

12 projects were submitted for screening. Didn't forward four because they did not meet the Title II criteria.

Jackson Dam repair and design for spillway of water passage.

Jackson Creek erosion control in the city of Jacksonville. Road construction due to erosion.

Jackson Creek access road construction. Reconstruction of two roads to allow large equipment and fire management.

Little Butte - increase water flows.

Field survey equipment to collect watershed information.

Bear Creek tree planting to develop rip around Bear Creek.

Jackson County OHV system (John's Peak Activity Plan). Don't have management plan. Allied with BLM to bring more resources into Johns Peak recreation area.

Public comment:

David Lexow (public) of the Motorcycle Riders Association: Have MOU's with adjacent property owners. Acquiring grants for projects. Most applied to private property. Management plan needed. State OHV assisting in funding. MRA properties involved. Motorcycle Club worked closely with Jacksonville (\$100,000 into motorcycle plan).

Jill Bascus (public) - Jackson County fuel reduction by goat/sheep grazing. Being raised next to project area. Will provide training on site. Alternate method of fuel management due to a steep grade. Neighborhood residents meeting. Will improve forest health and reduce existent fire hazards. Goat/sheep products. Will create/maintain an educated rural workforce. FY03 will enhance the existing species. Sierra Club will assist with training. Residents will allow access through their property.

Paul Kay (Public) - Jacksonville: Chair of Bear Creek Watershed Council. Involved in Little Butte Watershed project for 7 years. Encourage funding for resource/water. Involves tributaries. Water generated on the lowlands can be reclaimed. Plug leaks and conveyance. Water will then be returned back. City, county, environmental organizations and agencies support the project. Start NEPA. \$250,000 this year and next year. Up front expense of \$100 million for the project. Fund now. Know early on if there's opposition to address now. Medford Water Reclamation Facility is the lead. \$\$ would go for field work, site surveys and project designing and engineering for NEPA. A pilot project.

Goat project: Compare with the mutton project (Bill Yocum/Ashland). Humbug has high fire hazard. Forest Bugman EA is out for public review to reduce fire reduction. Dealing with limited access that doesn't have public access. Meets BLM's land use plan. Similar cost per acre for treatment.

Dollars shown on table for 03 are estimates. Sue suggested that the RAC approve more projects than estimated.

Buying field survey equipment doesn't make it a project. It does not fit the criteria for Title II.

BLM will ask opinion of the Solicitor if there is a question about the project meeting Title II. To be fair/objective in evaluating proposals, must evaluate equally. Because county \$\$ are being used, projects have to be approved by 2/3 of Board of Commissioners. The RAC must do a good job. Judge all projects with the same set of standards. The RAC has lots of discretion.

Alternative Accepted: Approve the project funding for the equipment. Then go back and rework their application to better fit into legislation. Can be singled out for solicitor's review.

Alternative: Concerned with dumping trash clean up process. Fearful that if implemented, will do the same way of business forever vs. approach it a different way. Do educational outreach. Private landowners may depend on the government to do the clean up.

Alternative Accepted: Don't buy the equipment. Resolve the problem instead. Come up with a plan to address recommendations/alternatives.

Two noxious weed projects in the monument. Natural resources will be funded out of national funding vs. Jackson County \$\$\$. A lower priority for funding.

John's Peak Activity Plan - bump up dollars by \$20,535..

Public projects: not comfortable with Little Butte/Bear Creek (\$100,000) - requested that Paul Kay provide additional clarification and a better description on how funds would be used at next meeting.

Jenny Creek (Medford) - funded out of national monument project funds. Medford has noxious weed program (Title II). Huge problem. Monument has lots of private dispersed land. Weeds don't know boundaries. Identify how we can cut down from \$1.7 million and \$1.4 million and make sure we have identified \$320,000. Not off the list. Just bumped down to a lower priority. Illegal dumps/noxious weeds are a lower priority. First survey. Then a management plan.

Humbug Fuel Reduction - Are the same people going to protest other fuel reduction projects? County is supportive of fuel reduction in multiple ways. Hand thinning plus goats (2 parts)

Last year funded China Gulch fuel reduction (\$44,000). Still in process. Asked for \$58,000 more. Multi-year project. RAC did look at China Gulch on the field trip.

Committee asked for results from first project before buying more because there's no results from the first one. Results will be seen in two years. Finishing up the EA. Moving goats in the fall and back in the spring can result in grass coming back in the second year.

Hot foamy spray application (hand thinning needed). Don't have enough data to say it's the best practice. Takes time to understand. Multiple tests extravagant.

Suggestions:

National Monument: suggested that of the four projects recommended to be not funded, fund the OHV request to accelerate OHV plan. Move noxious weed to bottom of list in Monument if \$\$ aren't available.

Should more funds be allocated towards John's Peak? Yes.

Cut illegal dumping and occupancy. Take off Hyatt Lake dump station.

Little Butte Watershed plan: Paul encourages \$\$ to do EIS and engineering work and NEPA. \$250,000 for scope of work prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation. Identify jointly (NEPA & EA). Designing pilot project with Medford Water Reclamation for engineering and planning and route development. Overall project \$1 million. Will create 220 miles of canals; piping all/some. Increase storage at Howard Prairie and Agate Lake. Increase availability from Medford Water Reclamation. Could be used for agricultural use. Analysis developed. Total water storage and distribution will be for the whole county/ basin and looking at it long term. Very sophisticated tools. Political and financial realities for each project. Potential for getting them done. Factored into land use plans/development. Bureau of Reclamation has planning potentials and technical assistance.

NEPA/EIS process? Are the plug leaks of the canals feeding shallow wells/wet lands? Can change use of resource on lands. Don't know how big the problem is with the leaks. EIS/NEPA must have preferred alternative. Need to inventory whole system before knowing the impacts. Multiple parts; planned steps. Streamflow problem in the valley. Fish problem from here to the coast. What will be gained/lost? Will enhance importing streams.

Motion (moved, seconded and approved): Paul come back to the Aug 22 RAC meeting and bring information and a detailed budget.

Motion (moved, seconded and approved): Approve Little Butte Creek/Bear Creek funding. Refer to attached tables.

Motion (moved, seconded and approved): Voted for 3 Monument projects plus illegal dumps, and noxious weed help. Refer to attached tables.

Josephine County (Glendale and GPRA) Title II project proposals for FY03

Josephine County has two multi-year projects and an illegal dumping projects (doesn't include equipment). Have deficit - asking for \$1.3 million. \$518,000 available. Short fall of \$780,000 for road maintenance, recreation, forest health/restoration.

Project prioritization is the same as last spring. Looked at resource protection values. Eighteen projects are proposed for FY03. LE, noxious weed, trail construction/maintenance, and develop interpretive trails.

Burma Pond project: Glendale RA recreation site. Will do dam restabilization. Vault toilet installed (\$11,000). Multi-year project.

Lower London Peak Trail: Continue project with the community (\$11,000).

Illegal dumping (\$90,000): Increase patrol (plus hazardous waste). Install dump sites near the homes. Must get signed titles for abandoned vehicles that are burned, shot up or stripped. Suggest half-time sheriff's deputy for prevention. Employees are being threatened. Use local contractor for disposal.

Noxious weed removal (Glendale RA): Grave Creek Watershed (above river corridor, north of the Rogue River) - working with the Middle Rogue Watershed Council to treat and control (\$6,600)

Grayback Mountain trail construction: Multi-year project (\$62,000). Low elevation trail head to a trail system. Reestablish link between rural communities of Williams and Cave Junction.

Pacifica Trail construction: Partnership (nonprofit) with Williams Valley (\$13,310). Connecting trails. Partners with Pacifica, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation for BLM and Pacifica trails.

Picket Creek road chip seal: Planned for last year but didn't make the cut (\$48,400). Lower portion very hazardous. Accidents. Reduce sediment in Picket Creek to benefit coho salmon and steelhead salmon.

Picket Creek culvert installation: Additional ½ mile of habitat (\$55,000)

Rock Creek Culvert replacement (1.7 miles) in Glendale RA (\$110,000)

West Fork Illinois bridge replacement (\$107,000) - provide access to BLM and Josephine County lands. Bridge on private land. Benefit to the county, state, BLM and landowners.

Cathedral Hills trail maintenance: Leased to county for public use (\$60,000). Reduce sediment and erosion through trail redesign.

Thompson Creek Road chip seal on list last year (\$48,400): Reduce sediment.

Salmon Creek interpretive forest (\$102,300) - Cooperative; forest related hands on; interpretation and education for kids (Glendale RA). Continuing partnership with Sunny Wolf CRT? Yes.

Trow Bridge Ponds Dam/Recreation Planning: Eliminate. Potential safety hazard to area users by stabilizing the dam (\$30,000). Similar to Burma Pond project. Ongoing recreation; historical dam.

Scattered Apples density management (\$50,000): Will carry over \$\$ from last year. Forming management plan.

Stratton Hog logs for fish (\$16,500): Improve fish habitat (large woody debris)/

Public comment:

Administration of boundary trail for Grayback Mountain Trail intersects. Greyback is nonmotorized. Trail on top and is not open to motorized vehicles, but it is open to motorized vehicles on others. Trail will not be opened for road use.

Bob Korfhage- Public projects submitted not prioritized. Six projects in Josephine County. One did not meet the criteria.

China Gulch Road restoration (Williams Watershed Council) - 2.5 miles of BLM road; NW Young Corp do road maintenance.

East Fork fish passage (Williams Watershed Council)

Youth-to-Work (Job Council, Rogue Valley Boys & Girls Club). Use experienced people to work in the field.

Public comment:

Jim Frick - Florence fires impacted Illinois Valley and their economy; entire SW Oregon district. BLM favors fire suppression. Have concern for future for noxious weeds because of fire suppression. Dumping issues: supports Abbie's recommendation on the West Fork Bridge. Partnership between private owners and the federal government. Thompson Creek Road and Pickett Creek - extremely dangerous driving. Private ownership on both sides.

Mid Rogue Watershed Council - seeding projects. Collect seeds and plant along riparian areas by volunteers. Partnership with people knowledgeable about proper trees, proper planting, public and private land.

RAC

Cut illegal dump project and Rock Creek culvert replacement. Lower priority for Cathedral Hills, Thompson Creek, Stratton Hog - density reduction. POC issue. GPRA has \$\$ carry over.

Motion (moved, seconded and approved on the above approved projects - see attached table)

Klamath (BLM proposals): More \$\$ than projects (+ \$3,300). **Motion (moved, seconded and approved)**

Curry and Douglas County projects: More \$\$ than projects. **Motion (moved, seconded and approved)**

Douglas County projects. Will discuss fish biologist position on Aug 22 with reframed proposal that will fit with the intent of legislation. **Motion (moved, seconded and approved)**

BIN

Susan Morgan will put on Aug 22 agenda (fish biologist position)

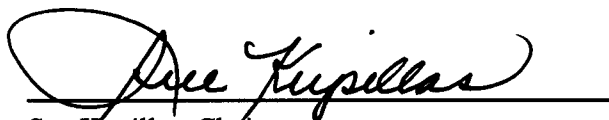
Approve RAC April 11, 2002 minutes: **Motion (moved, seconded and approved)**

RAC goals/objectives: Develop theme; legacy at next meeting.

Monument EIS plan - diverse interest; want briefing overview of proposal and talking points. Also want area costs (not part of RAC's charge)

Update on fire at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sue Kupillas", is written over a horizontal line.

Sue Kupillas, Chair
Medford District BLM
Resource Advisory Committee

Dec. 17, 2002
Date